

REMARKS

Claims 6, and 8 to 27 are pending in this application.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for depending from a cancelled claim. This informality is corrected by amendment herein to change its dependency to claim 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Rejection under Prior Art

Claims 6 to 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over GB 2,326,505 ("Palmer") in view of GB 2,300,062 ("Phillips"). Palmer and Phillips are directed to gaming machines.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that the Phillips reference is not listed on the PTO-Form 892 accompanying the Office Action or on the PTO form 1449 submitted by Applicants. It is respectfully requested that this reference be listed on a subsequent PTO-Form 892.

Claim 6 is amended herein to include the recitations of claim 7. Claim 7 is canceled.

The Office Action states that Palmer discloses a game control panel "... running from one edge of the front wall structure or is inclined with respect to the two display monitors (Figs. 1&2)." However, Palmer discloses only two panels 11 and 12 at an angle to each other whereas the claimed invention herein discloses at least three panels at an angular orientation to each other,

namely, the two display monitors 28a and 28b and the control panel 20. Palmer discloses user press buttons (31) below window (20) on panel (12). However, even if the press buttons (31) were interpreted to be a control panel the recitations of claim 6 as amended would not be met because press buttons (31) are in the same plane as window (20) and are not inclined thereto as required by amended claim 6. The Phillips reference does not disclose or suggest three panels at an angular orientation to each other. Hence, even the combination of these two references does not support a *prima facie* case for obviousness. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The New Claims

New claim 26 is an independent claim directed to a gaming machine. Support for the restrictions of this claim can be found in the drawings, for example. Fig. 4.

New claim 27 is an independent claim directed to a gaming machine.

Claim 27 specifies that the two display monitors are positioned one above the other at an obtuse angle and are mounted to the backside of the doorframe. This feature is supported in the specification, page 2, last paragraphs, and in original claim 1, option(a). The further recitation of the doorframe including also a control panel running from one edge of the doorframe to the other and being inclined relative to the two display monitors is disclosed in the specification at page 3, second paragraph in combination with Figure 1. Finally, the recitation that the doorframe is hinged to the cabinet so as to open and close together with the display monitors and the game control panel relative to the gaming machine cabinet is disclosed in the specification page 4, first paragraph in combination with Figure 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art references cited in the Office Action cannot anticipate nor render obvious the subject matter of the present application as defined by new claim 27.

As already explained in the original application, the present invention tries to satisfy two different needs: one is to improve the ease of a player viewing the plurality of display monitors; the other is to improve the ease of an attendant performing maintenance duties. It is difficult to meet these two needs at the same time. Typically, meeting one requirement meant sacrificing the other one. This will become apparent from the following problem solution approach starting out from Palmer (GB 2 326 505).

Palmer shows a gaming machine having two display means positioned one above the other at an obtuse angle between each other. As explained in the specification of the present application, such an arrangement of the display means improves the ease of a player viewing the two displays. It allows the player, with as little posture changing as necessary, to view the displays by merely changing the angle of the eyes wherein there can be a substantially right angle between the user's eyes viewing axis and the display surface of both monitors. In other words, a slanting view and undesired reflections on the monitors resulting therefrom can be avoided by means of such a positioning of the monitors at an obtuse angle.

However, the arrangement shown in Palmer is disadvantageous with respect to maintenance duties. The components positioned behind the monitors cannot be reached unless the monitors are dismantled.

Consequently, it is an objective of the present invention to improve the ease of an attendant performing maintenance duties, without sacrificing the ease of a player viewing the plurality of display means.

To meet both needs at the same time, an important feature of the present invention is that the two display monitors are positioned one above the other at an obtuse angle relative to each other and are affixed to the doorframe. Furthermore, the doorframe together with the two display monitors and the game control panel affixed thereto are hinged to the gaming machine cabinet so that the entire assembly comprising the doorframe, the display monitors affixed thereto and the control panel can be opened relative to the cabinet. This allows a worker to perform maintenance duties also on the backside of the monitors and other components of, for example, the control unit positioned behind the monitors (when the doorframe is in the closed positioned). On the other hand, the desired good visibility of the display monitors and the control panel is not sacrificed. The obtuse angle between the display monitors and the inclined position of the control panel below the monitors is maintained.

This specific design suggested by the present invention was not rendered obvious by the prior art. Palmer clearly suggests mounting the doorframe by means of a hinge at a top edge thereof so that it can be pivoted upwardly to open the cabinet, as can be seen from Figure 1. This embodiment is emphasized to be particularly advantageous, cf. page 4, lines 17 to 18 of Palmer. However, mounting of the doorframe in this manner clearly prevents the display monitors from being mounted to the doorframe because weight of the monitors on the doorframe would prevent the doorframe from being opened upwardly. Consequently, in Palmer the doorframe just

includes two glass panels through which the monitors mounted in the cabinet can be viewed.

The doorframe can be opened without the monitors.

On the other hand, it should be clearly seen that replacing the hinge axis at the top edge of the doorframe and providing a substantially vertical hinge axis would not have been feasible because of the bent design of the doorframe of Palmer. No hinge could have been mounted on both side legs of the doorframe of Palmer.

Hinging only one of the legs definitely would not work either, since the monitor mounted to the other leg would have had a considerable lever arm so that the weight of this monitor would not be supported of the other leg of the doorframe by any practicable hinge arrangement. Therefore, without substantial changes and modifications of the doorframe, no mounting of the display monitors to the doorframe of Palmer would have been possible.

Aside from these two aspects, one should also note that it is the object of Palmer to reduce the cabling between the electronic components of the machine, i.e., between the monitors and the control unit mounted in the cabinet, cf. for example page 2, second paragraph of Palmer. However, when mounting the monitors to the doorframe so that the monitors can be opened together with the doorframe relative to the cabinet, the cabling definitely would become more complicated. Therefore, also in view of this aspect, it should be noted that Palmer leads away from the present invention. Modifying the apparatus of Palmer in a way that would have counteracted the objective of Palmer cannot be considered obvious.

Phillips (GB2, 300, 062) does not cure the deficiencies of Palmer. Phillips discloses an entertainment machine. As noted in the Office Action, Phillips discloses that one or more

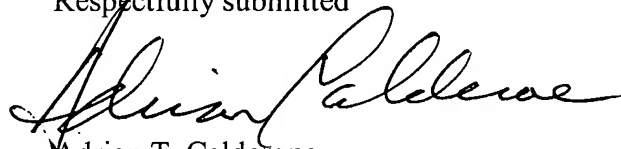
electrical display devices can be mounted on the panels so as to be removable with the panels. However, Phillips does not disclose hinged attachment of a doorframe to a gaming machine cabinet, nor does Phillips disclose two display monitors positioned one above the other at an obtuse angle and a game control panel below the display monitors also attached to the door frame.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims 26 and 27 are also patentable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above all of the pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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